

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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P R 231741Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4516
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04738

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SF, UK
SUBJECT: BUTHELEZI INTERVIEW ON BBC

REF: DURBAN 0178

1. USIS LONDON HAS SECURED TRANSCRIPT OF MARCH 15
BBC-TV 'NEWSDAY' PROGRAM, MAJOR SEGMENT OF WHICH FEATURES
SPOT INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN FIGURES
INCLUDING BUTHELEZI.

2. SEGMENTS OF BUTHELEZI INTERVIEW INTERSPERSED
THROUGHOUT FAIRLY LENGTHY PROGRAM. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT
WHICH COVERS REFTEL CONCERN. TRANSCRIPT OF ENTIRE
'NEWSDAY' PROGRAM BEING POUCHED TODAY.

3. BEGIN TEXT:
JOHN HUMPHREYS (BBC): BUTHELEZI BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICA
ALREADY HAS ENOUGH MARTYRS. HE HAS TWO FAVOURITE
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SAYINGS: DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOUR, AND
POLITICS IS THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE. BUT HE IS NOT
NAIVE. INDEED HE CONCEDES THAT HE CANNOT SEE THE
GOVERNMENT MAKING ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN ITS POLICY TOWARDS
THE BLACK POPULATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AND HE
ACCEPTS THAT WHAT HE CALLS MASS ACTION IS INEVITABLE.

BUTHELEZI: I AM QUITE AWARE THE DECISION IS MAINTAINED THROUGH VIOLENCE, I'M QUITE AWARE OF THIS. I'M QUITE AWARE OF THIS FACT, AND I'M QUITE AWARE THAT THIS MIGHT ESCALATE TOWARDS VIOLENCE TOO. BUT YOU KNOW BEFORE VIOLENCE TAKES PLACE, MUST WE JUST FOLD ARMS. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD JUST SIT DOWN AND FOLD ARMS. I THINK THAT WE SHOULD GET PEOPLE TOGETHER AND TRY AND ORGANISE THEM TOGETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF PAST EXPERIENCES, CREATE MORE UNITY, SO THAT IF AND WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR SOME MASS ACTION OF SORTS THEN THE PEOPLE ARE READY FOR IT, AND READY INSIDE THEM. YOU DON'T JUST SHOOT A RACE, YOU JUST SHOOT AND HOPE YOU ARE GOING TO DO WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO. UNLESS YOU PREPARE THEM AND POLITICISE THEM, GET THEM READY FOR IT.

HUMPHREYS: AS YOU SAY, POLITICS IS THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE, BUT THERE COMES A STAGE IN THE HISTORY OF MANY COUNTRIES WHERE PEOPLE DECIDE THAT THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE DOESN'T APPLY ANY LONGER AND YOU HAVE TO TAKE TO WEAPONS. YOU HAVE TO BECOME A REVOLUTIONARY INSTEAD

OF AN EVOLUTIONARY POLITICIAN. WHEN DO YOU THINK THAT PHASE MIGHT COME. IS IT INEVITABLE THAT IT WILL COME?

BUTHELEZI: WELL, YOU SEE WE ARE TIRED OF THE CROCODILE TEARS, YOU KNOW, YOU POOR BLACKS, YOU ARE BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPRESSED UNDER APARTHEID, BECAUSE IN FACT WHEN IT COMES TO ACTION YOU DON'T PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS. I'M TALKING IN TERMS OF THE WHOLE WEST.

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YOU KNOW THE WEST DISILLUSIONS ME, BECAUSE I'M NOT A
YOUNGSTER, I'M 49 YEARS, AND I KNOW THAT THE WEST
HASN'T PLAYED BALL WITH US. YOU TALK ABOUT BEING
REVOLUTIONARY, WITH WHAT TOOLS? ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT
I SHOULD GO TO RUSSIA TOO. BECAUSE MY BROTHER IN THE
ANC HAD NO OPTION BUT TO GO TO MOSCOW, AND MY BROTHER
IN THE PAC HAD TO GO TO PEKING.....

HUMPHREYS: THE WEST SHOULD ARM YOU, IS THIS WHAT YOU
ARE SAYING, THAT THE WEST SHOULD ARM THE ANC OR YOURSELF?

BUTHELEZI: YES, THIS IS WHAT I SAY. IT IS NO GOOD
TALKING TO ME AND SUBJECTING ME, BOMBARDING ME WITH
PREACHMENTS THAT THERE MUST COME A TIME WHEN WE MUST BE
REVOLUTIONARY, WITHOUT HAVING THE TOOLS FOR THAT. WHERE
AM I GOING TO GET THE TOOLS FOR THAT?

HUMPHREYS: IF YOU HAD THE TOOLS WOULD YOU BECOME A
REVOLUTIONARY?
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BUTHELEZI: I WILL DECIDE THAT WHEN I HAVE THE TOOLS,
IT IS NOT A THING YOU DISCUSS HYPOTHETICALLY. END TEXT

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